

SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

MARCH EDITION

City of Seat Pleasant



"A City of Excellence"

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling

(At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

Acting City Administrator/ Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



Embrace the Possibilities

Have you registered for the Historic *Envision Prince George's* 21st Century Town Meeting®?

Join people from across the county for an historic event! Be one of 1,000 Prince Georgians to help create our future at the ***Envision Prince George's* 21st Century Town Meeting** on **Saturday March, 20, 2010**. Don't miss this opportunity to shape the vision, goals, and strategies that will guide Prince George's County now and into the future.

The 21st Century Town Meeting® will not be like other meetings you have attended. It will be:

- **Highly participatory**—small group discussion in which everyone's voice counts.
 - **High-tech**—wireless computers on every table to capture your best ideas.
 - **Everyone votes**—handheld polling devices let everyone vote and see the results instantly.
- Results-oriented**—leading directly to a vision, goals, and an Action Agenda informed by all.

Food, child care, and transportation assistance are available. DOOR PRIZES awarded!

The Town Meeting will be held at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD, 20785.

Participation is **Free**, but space is limited. **Reserve your place now at**

www.envisionprincegeorges.org or by calling 1-866-377-3742. Fax completed registration forms to 301-567-9553 or mail to *Envision Prince George's*, PO Box 623, Oxon Hill, MD 20750-0623.

Envision Prince George's is an initiative launched by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. For more information visit www.mncppc.org/Envision or call 301-952-3594. TTY Access available at 301-952-4366.



For more information on how to get involved and stay involved visit www.envisionprincegeorges.org or text 'ENVISION' to 41411



GREETINGS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings! Once again, I come to you on behalf of the City of Seat Pleasant, City Council. As always, we are working hard to improve services and the quality of life for you the residents of Seat Pleasant. There is not a moment that goes by that you are not our top priority. With that, I ask that if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at City Hall, (301) 336-2600.

As you know the City Council has also been working hard in the renovation of the Feggans Center, as it is the hub of our community. We have submitted a Bond Bill request to our State Delegates and Senator. As we receive information, we will pass that information on to you. Nevertheless, the Council and the Office of the Mayor are seeking other funding sources. We are in the planning stages of seeking architects, engineers, planners, etc. so this project can move forward.

On Monday, March 1, the 24th Legislative District held their annual night in Annapolis. It is with great honor that we share with you that "The City of Excellence" was not only represented with the most elected officials, but with the most residents in attendance as well. We are definitely making our mark in Annapolis. Thank you to ALL of the residents that came out. It was a joy to be in your presence. The Council looks forward to next year's event and having even MORE residents in attendance.

As your servants, we the Council want to hear from you! We would like to know what type of information you would like us to report to you each month. Your thoughts are important to us. Please email the Council President at latasha.gatling@seatpleasantmd.gov with suggestions on what information you would like to see in the council's monthly message to you. We look forward to hearing from you!

In conclusion, please continue to support your community and its leaders. We look forward to seeing each one of you at our Public Meeting the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall. Also, please do not forget to COMPLETE AND MAIL BACK YOUR CENSUS 2010 QUESTIONNAIRE this year as that is one of the means by which we receive funds to improve our community. It is imperative that everyone in your household is counted so that the City cannot only have an accurate count of its residents, but also so, we are not shortchanged when it comes to funding. Again, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

LaTasha C. Gatling

Council President

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

COUNCIL LEGISLATION

The City Council has passed the following legislations from October 2009-to February 2010

Ordinances:

O-10-02 Amendment of the FY2009-2010 Budget Concerning Cost of Living Increase

O-10-04 Amendment of the FY2009-2010 Budget Byrne Justice Assistance Grant

O-10-06 Amendment of the FY2009-2010 Budget Public Works Vehicle Purchase

Resolutions:

R-10-10 A Resolution concerning Charter Amendment-Filling Vacancies

R-10-11 A Resolution to Amend Resolution 10-09 to Adopt a Hiring Freeze

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Resolutions con't.

R-10-12 A Resolution in Support of Bond Bill by Senator Exum for John E. Feggans Center

R-10-13 A Resolution in Support of Bond Bill by Delegate Joanne Benson and Delegate Michael Vaughn for John E. Feggans Center

R-10-14 A Resolution in Support of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

R-10-15 A Resolution to Adopt Records Retention Schedule for the City of Seat Pleasant

R-10-16 Public Works Vehicle Competitive Bidding Exemptions Resolution

Copies of the legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2009 - 2010

Governmental Affairs & Technology

Reveral Yeargin, Chair

Gerald R. Raynor, Sr. Vice - Chair

Darrell Hardy

Human Services, Health & Education

Aretha A. Stephenson, Chair

Elenora Simms, Vice Chair

Reveral Yeargin

Economic Development, Housing & Planning

Elenora Simms, Chair

Reveral Yeargin, Vice Chair

Aretha A. Stephenson

Public Safety, Civil Rights

Gerald Raynor, Sr, Chair

Aretha A. Stephenson, Vice Chair

Kelly Porter

Finance & Budget

Kelly Porter, Chair

Darrell Hardy, Vice Chair

Gerald R. Raynor, Sr.

Public Works & Transportation

Darrell Hardy, Chair

Kelly Porter

Elenora Simms

CITY WELCOMES SPRING WITH KITE FLYING EVENT



Spring will soon be upon us and what better way to usher in the change of weather than by flying a kite? On April 10, 2010 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Councilwoman Simms invites children ages six to twelve to fly a kite with elected officials of the City of Seat Pleasant in Goodwin Park. (There will be free kites for the first fifty children in attendance.)

Play is an important part of children's lives and in the age of video games and the internet, we must find creative ways to engage children in play. In light of an increase of obesity in the country, opportunities that encourage physical activity provides healthy benefits for all involved. The City also plans to pursue a Playful City USA designation through the national organization called KABOOM, which stresses the importance of play.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE: SAMUEL PRUE

The month of March, 2010 is going to be one of intensive training for the City of Seat Pleasant Police Department. Sergeant Herbert Pettiford and Officer Tracey Burnett will attend a two week training course to become Certified
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Firearms instructors, at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Academy. Officer Aaron Forster will attend updated in-service training at the Prince Georges Community College Police Training Academy. Officer Jamie Matthews and Officer Aaron Forster will attend a 40 hour rifle course given by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Academy.

This advanced training will allow the Seat Pleasant Police Department to be more versatile and flexible. This will decrease our training expenses in the future and allow us to have more highly trained officers on the street. This increases the level of safety for citizens and officers alike. The City of Seat Pleasant Police Department is dedicated to providing the most effective and efficient service possible to the citizens of Seat Pleasant, Maryland

HOMEOWNER'S TAX CREDIT AVAILABLE

The Homeowners' Tax Credit Program provides credits against State and local real property for homeowners who qualify based on a sliding scale of property tax liability and income. The Homeowners Tax Credit Program is a State funded program, where the State reimburses local governments for the cost of the tax credit against local property. This program was initiated in 1975, was originally limited to homeowner's age 60 and older and homeowners with disabilities. This program was expanded to homeowners of all ages in 1978. The last change to the tax credit program occurred in 2004. This legislative initiative changed the Property Tax Credit to bring it in line with inflationary increases in property values since 1998. It is worth pointing out that according to Maryland State Department of Taxation and Assessment currently only 165 residents participate in this program. An additional 70 Seat Pleasant residents are eligible for the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit at a net savings of \$610 per resident. The State of Maryland's Property Tax Credit Program is 100% supported by State of Maryland. The deadline for submitting the Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application is September 1, 2010. The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Eligibility application can be completed one of the following three ways:

- By Mailing the application to the address below
- By Using the online Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Application (Application online is due September 1, 2010).
- By Printing and mailing the pdf application on the State Department of Assessment and Taxation web site <http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation mailing address is:

Department of Assessment and Taxation
Homeowner's Tax Credit Program
301 West Preston Street
Baltimore Maryland 21201

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation web site is:

<http://www.dat.state.md.us>

The State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation phone number is: 410-767-4433.
If you have any questions please contact Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer 301/336-2600 extension 2230

WHY THE CENSUS IS IMPORTANT

An article by Michael Birnbaum in the February 28, 2010 edition of the Washington Post, Metro Section reported that the Prince George's County School System has cut its budget by 2.6% or \$45 Million. This reduction entails the elimination of 800 positions, increases in school lunch prices, elimination of some student services, and many other disturbing results. According to the article these cuts are the result of a \$22.8 million drop in federal stimulus funding, \$6 million decline in county funding and a \$37 million drop in state funding. The article also indicated that there will be a reduction in the parent liaison program, which is comprised of liaisons who serve as interpreters and translators for parents for those schools that have a large Spanish speaking population. *This is why the census is important.*

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The data collected by the census will help to identify where your federal dollars will be directed in our schools. This includes Title 1 allocations, college grant and loan programs, specialty services, and special education programs. These cuts and reallocations will quite possibly continue. This is why **YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR 2010 CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE AND MAIL IT BACK**. You need to ensure that everyone in your household is counted so that our community will be well represented when decisions are made on where the over \$400 billion in federal funds will be distributed.

FROM THE OFFICE OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

In order to educate the public regarding code violations which result in citations, here are some common violations that occur within the City:



- Inoperable vehicles, dismantled, wrecked, and vehicles that have expired tags
- Working on vehicles is prohibited
- No left wheel to the curb (A \$50.00 dollar fine will be issued.)
- Accumulation of trash , debris and sanitation
- Overgrown grass, weeds and bushes (in excess of 10 inches)
- Street address numbers have to be plainly legible and visible from the street
- Illegal construction that is conducted without permits (from the City or the County)
- Vehicles can not be parked on the apron as it can block the free flowing of walking traffic

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control- 301-499-8300

Bulk Trash (Bates Trucking)- 301-773-2069

Charlie's Towing- 301-773-5818

Police Non Emergency- 301-333-4000

State Business License- 301-952-3330

Use and Occupancy Inspections- 301-883-6043

Zoning Complaints/Enforcement – 301-883-6130

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Public Works Department needs your help in combating graffiti and illegal dumping in the City. The department is faced with repeatedly painting the bridge on Seat Pleasant Drive due to graffiti. The bridge has been painted six times and the cost is growing.

The City is also dealing with illegal dumping. Recently, a load of concrete pillars, slabs of concrete and dirt were dumped on Soper Lane. The department didn't have anything large enough to move the pillars and had to cut them in order to remove them. The expense included the rental of an Air Jack Hammer and a generator. Shortly thereafter it was discovered that a load of tires had been dumped near the entrance of the Feggans Center. It has also been discovered that people are dumping illegally near our commercial trash containers. It cost the City \$175.00 per ton to dump these materials which is a drain on City finances. Please contact the Public Works Department or the non-emergency number (301-333-4000) for the Seat Pleasant Police Department if you observe anyone illegally dumping or spraying graffiti.

Please be reminded that bulk trash is picked up by Bates Trucking on Wednesday. If you need bulk items picked up, you must call 301-773-2069 by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday to request a pick up. Thank you for your cooperation.

WORDS OF ADVICE FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT'S CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC)

A burglar hates nosy neighbors. Nothing is better than having citizens who never see anything – it makes a criminal's job a whole lot easier. If you look the other way, the criminal is free to commit more crime, hurt people, damage our property, and make our community unsafe. It's time for us to make a change – the change in our city depends on you. If you see something wrong on your block, call it in. The non-emergency number is (301) 333-4000. This number is ideal for reporting problems that our police should be aware of such as loitering, drug sales, attempted theft, strange cars sitting on your street, etc. Call 911 to report incidents that require immediate assistance of Fire, Police, or EMS personnel. When calling, give the exact location and as many details as you can but do not attempt to apprehend or detain anyone. Leave that to our wonderfully trained officers of the Seat Pleasant Police Department.

The goal of CPAC is to enhance the quality of life of our residents by creating a safe and secure environment. If you have any issues you'd like us to discuss and bring to the attention of the Seat Pleasant Police Department or the Fire Department, feel free to email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com.

SEAT PLEASANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO "BEGIN "GREENING THE COMMUNITY"

Greetings from the Seat Pleasant Community Development Corporation (SPCDC). We are a 14 year old community service non-profit organization. We have moved beyond community clean up, fence upgrades and house painting and are now engaged in building and renovating homes for low and moderate income home buyers including the disabled. This is an exciting time for us. We are in the process of rolling out our newest program the "Greening the Community" renewable energy pilot project to audit and upgrade homes in Seat Pleasant. Starting in March, the SPCDC in conjunction with Prince George's Community College will begin sending unemployed and under employed residents to an 8-12 week training to audit and retrofit houses with 'green' renewable energy technology and appliances. These participants will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become certified to work in the renewable energy industries. All interested persons should contact the office at 301/324-2470 for more information or to sign up for classes or to request to have your home audited.

Other services we provide include SAT/GED Programs. Students and others interested in obtaining your GED certificate, should hesitate no longer! The Seat Pleasant CDC offers classes twice weekly to train and prepare you for the GED or SAT exams. Considering high school completion and literacy rates, we encourage all of you without a high school diploma to take advantage of this opportunity to get a jump start on your professional career. Progress beyond high school is critical so come by the office or call for more information.

FREE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARDS AVAILABLE

The City of Seat Pleasant is in partnership with the National League of Cities to provide Free Prescription Discount Cards to help residents cope with the high cost of prescription drugs. This program is made possible through a collaboration with CVS Caremark. Residents can save up to 20% at more than 59,000 participating pharmacies across the country. The card can be used anytime a prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no fees, no restrictions and no limits on how often the card may be used. Residents may obtain a card at City Hall located at 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland. You must be a Seat Pleasant resident and there is a limit of one card per household. Cards available while supplies last.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES



THE TRAINING SOURCE IS IN THE COMMUNITY AND FOR THE COMMUNITY

As we weather the storms of 2010, how is your family weathering the storm of the recession? Has unemployment knocked on your door? Do you need a better job to make ends meet? Are you looking for work, but don't have solid skills or experience, a strong resume or the right professional clothes to wear on an interview? The Training Source can help!

Located right here in the City of Seat Pleasant (59 Yost Place), The Training Source provides employment training and job placement assistance to eligible residents, a youth leadership program for students who will enter the 10th grade in September, a professional clothing closet for job seekers, and more. Call (301) 499-8872 to find out more about our programs, or visit our website at www.thetrainingsource.org.

The Training Source is also working with the US Census to ensure a complete count of ALL residents in Prince George's County for Census 2010. Do you know that your responses to the US Census can help ensure that your community gets resources such as better schools, job training programs, senior centers, emergency assistance, and more? Your responses even determine the number of representatives we have in Congress. Your Census form will arrive in your mailbox any time now. When it arrives, please take ten minutes to answer ten simple questions – that's it!!! Mail your responses back in the postage paid envelope and you will be counted. Your community is counting on you – make sure you get counted! All responses are confidential. Don't wait – participate!! For more Census 2010 information visit www.2010.census.gov for all the details.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT.....

MOMENTS LIKE THESE

By Councilman Reveral Yeargin

What you are about to read, are moments that cannot be repeated, traced, or duplicated

We are in one of those exclusive moments right now, and before we know it, this moment will be gone forever

Where did they come from and who told them to come our way, only to never come back this way again?

Some of them we love to like and others we love to hate, but without them, what are we supposed to do every day?

Let them come and stay as long as they like, because they have come to build up character in our lives

There was time when we laughed about the smallest things, but now people want to be serious about everything

We got the greatest laughter over the silly stuff, and at the end of the day people can still be friends

Remember when your best friend fell on the way to school, and then they popped back up like it didn't happen

Nobody laughed while they were on the ground, but in retrospect those moments were the funniest

Laugh while you can and be respectable in the things that you find to be laughable material

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT #235

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

Ward I Meeting

Thursday, April 15th

6:00 p.m.

Seat Pleasant City Hall

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743

Annual Seat Pleasant Day

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Seat Pleasant Day will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010.

Vendors and performers are welcome!! Please contact Darlinda Sanders at 301-336-2600 or come to City Hall to receive a vendor application or an agreement to perform. Applications and agreements can also be received via e-mail. We are conveniently located at 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, MD 20743.

All applications must be submitted by **Thursday, April 15, 2010** to **Darlinda Sanders, Administrative Assistant for the Community Services Department**, Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.